

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

1819.7211

(d) An increase in subcontracting with protégé firms in industry categories where they have not traditionally participating within the mentor firm's activity.

1819.7208 Mentor firms.

(a) Eligibility:

(1) Contractors eligible for receipt of government contracts;

(2) Large prime contractors performing under contracts with at least one negotiated subcontracting plan as required by FAR 19.7; and

(3) Small business prime contractors that can provide developmental assistance to enhance the capabilities of protégés to perform as subcontractors and suppliers.

(b) Mentors will be encouraged to identify and select as protégés:

(1) A broad base of firms including those defined as emerging firms (e.g., a protégé whose size is no greater than 50 percent of the size standard applicable to the NAICS code assigned to a contracting opportunity);

(2) Firms in addition to those with whom they have established business relationships; and

(3) High-tech firms.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 65 FR 58932, Oct. 3, 2000]

1819.7209 Protégé firms.

(a) For selection as a protégé, a firm must be:

(1) An SDB in the NAICS Major Groups as determined by the Department of Commerce (see FAR 19.201(b)), HBCU, MI, or WOSB;

(2) Certified as small in the NAICS code for the services or suppliers to be provided by the protégé under its subcontract to the mentor; and

(3) Eligible for receipt of government contracts.

(b) Except for SDBs, a protégé firm may self-certify to a mentor firm that it meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of this section. Mentors may rely in good faith on written representations by potential protégés that they meet the specified eligibility requirements. SDB status eligibility and documentation requirements are determined according to FAR 19.304.

(c) Protégés may have multiple mentors. Protégés participating in mentor-

protégé programs in addition to the NASA Program should maintain a system for preparing separate reports of mentoring activity for each agency's program.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 10571, Mar. 5, 1999; 65 FR 58932, Oct. 3, 2000]

1819.7210 Selection of protégé firms.

(a) Mentor firms will be solely responsible for selecting protégé firms. The mentor is encouraged to identify and select the types of protégé firms listed in 1819.7208(b).

(b) Mentor firms may have more than one protégé.

(c) The selection of protégé firms by mentor firms may not be protested, except for a protest regarding the size or eligibility status of an entity selected by a mentor to be a protégé. Such protests shall be handled in accordance with FAR 19.703(b). The contracting officer shall notify the Headquarters Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) (Code K) of the protest.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 10572, Mar. 5, 1999]

1819.7211 Application process for mentor firms to participate in the Program.

(a) Prime contractors interested in becoming a mentor firm must submit a request to the NASA OSDBU to be approved under the Program. The application will be evaluated on the extent to which the company plans to provide developmental assistance. The information required in paragraph (b) of this section must be submitted to be considered for approval as a mentor firm.

(b) A proposed mentor must submit the following information to the NASA OSDBU:

(1) A statement that the mentor firm is currently performing under at least one active approved subcontracting plan (small business exempted) and that they are eligible, as of the date of application, for the award of Federal contracts;

(2) The cognizant NASA contract number(s), type of contract, period of performance (including options), title of technical program effort, name of

NASA Program Manager (including contact information) and name of the NASA field center where support is provided;

(3) The number of proposed mentor-protégé arrangements;

(4) Data on all current NASA contracts and subcontracts to include the contract/subcontract number(s), period of performance, awarding NASA installation or contractor and contract/subcontract value(s) including options;

(5) Data on total number and dollar value of subcontracts awarded under NASA prime contracts within the past 2 years and the number and dollar value of such subcontracts awarded to entities defined as protégés.

(6) Information on the proposed types of developmental assistance. For each proposed mentor-protégé relationship include information on the company's ability to provide developmental assistance to the identified protégé firm and how that assistance will potentially increase subcontracting opportunities for the protégé firm, including subcontracting opportunities in industry categories where these entities are not dominant in the company's current subcontractor base; and

(7) A Letter of Intent signed by both parties. At a minimum, the Letter of Intent must include the stated commitment that the parties intend to enter into a mentor-protégé agreement under the NASA Program, that they intend to cooperate in the establishment of a suitable developmental assistance program to meet their respective needs, and that they agree to comply with the obligations in 1819.7215 and all other provisions governing the Program.

1819.7212 OSDBU review and approval process of agreement.

(a) The information specified in 1819.7211(b) is reviewed by the NASA OSDBU. This review will be completed no later than 30 days after receipt by the OSDBU. The OSDBU will provide a copy of the submitted information to the cognizant NASA technical program manager and contracting officer for a parallel review and concurrence.

(b) If OSDBU approves the application, then the mentor

(1) Negotiates an agreement with the protégé; and

(2) Submits an original and two (2) copies of the agreement to the OSDBU for approval by the NASA Mentor-protégé program manager, the NASA technical program manager, and the contracting officer.

(c) Upon agreement approval, the mentor may implement a developmental assistance program.

(d) An approved agreement will be incorporated into the mentor's contract with NASA. It should be added to the subcontracting plan in contracts which contain such a plan.

(e) If OSDBU disapproves the application, then the mentor may provide additional information for reconsideration. The review of any supplemental material will be completed within 30 days after receipt by the OSDBU. Upon finding deficiencies that NASA considers correctable, the OSDBU will notify the mentor and request information to be provided within 30 days that may correct the deficiencies.

1819.7213 Agreement contents.

The contents of the agreement must contain:

(a) Names and addresses of mentor and protégé firms and a point of contact within both firms who will oversee the agreement;

(b) Procedures for the mentor firm to notify the protégé firm, OSDBU, and the contracting officer, in writing, at least 30 days in advance of the mentor firm's intent to voluntarily withdraw from the Program;

(c) Procedures for a protégé firm to notify the mentor firm in writing at least 30 days in advance of the protégé firm's intent to voluntarily terminate the mentor-protégé agreement. The mentor shall notify the OSDBU and the contracting officer immediately upon receipt of such notice from the protégé;

(d) A description of the type of developmental program that will be provided by the mentor firm to the protégé firm, to include a description of the subcontract work, and a schedule for providing assistance and criteria for evaluation of the protégé developmental success;